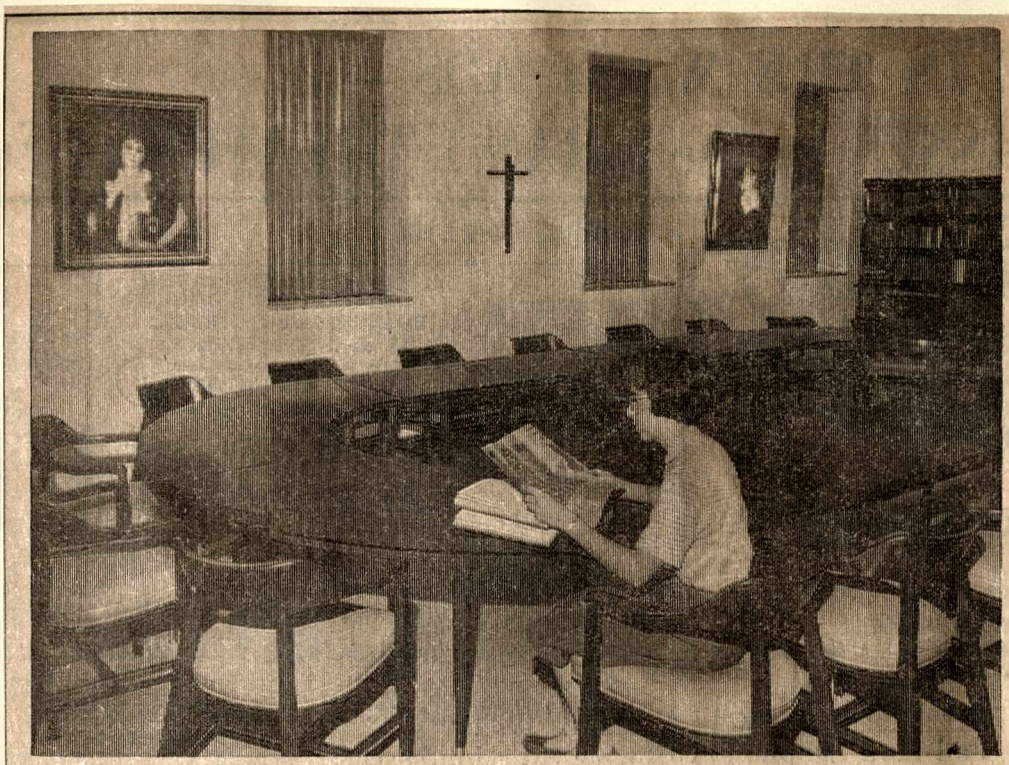

INDIANA ROOM—Miss Carol Akers, Terre Haute student at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, does some research in books about Indiana and by Indiana authors in the Indiana Room of the new Library at St. Mary's. The room was the gift of Mrs. Anton Hulman Jr. Portraits on the wall are of the late Amalia Kussner Coudert and Louise Kussner Cloud, former Terre Haute students at St. Mary's. (Photo by Kadel)

Mrs. Anton Hulman Jr., Donates Library Room

T. H. Star 10-13-65

By FRANCES E. HUGHES
Star Staff Writer

Celebration of the 125th anniversary of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and dedication of the new Library there is of special interest to Mrs Anton Hulman Jr., 1327 S. 6th St.

For it was Mrs. Hulman, formerly Miss Mary Fendrich, Evansville, a graduate of St. Mary's Academy in the Class of 1923, who made a gift of the Indiana Room to the library.

The Indiana Room contains books about Indiana and by Indiana authors, and serves as the meeting place for the college board of lay trustees. It is on the second floor of the building.

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The large oval conference table in the Indiana Room was specially designed. The blue leather upholstered chairs and blue draperies in the room and in the adjoining President's Conference Room were chosen to blend with the blue-toned painting, "On the Cliff," in the latter.

Terre Haute is given special prominence in the room through the presence of portraits of two local women who studied at St. Mary - of - the - Woods—the late Mrs. Amalia Kussner Coudert and her sister, Mrs. Louise Kussner Cloud. The portraits were done by Mrs. Benjamin Guinness in England, and were bequethed to the college by Mrs. Cloud.

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Both of the Kussner sisters were among the youngest students ever to enroll at the school Both were students there for several years in the early 1880's, enrolling at six years of age.

Mrs. Coudert earned artistic acclaim in this country and abroad for her exquisite miniature portraits. Her scrap book and a small diamond brooch, presented to her by King Edward VII of England in 1897 when he was Prince of Wales, also were bequethed to St. Mary's. The pin was modeled after the king's horse, Persimmon.

The scrap books contain clippings and letters from social and political dignitaries whom she had painted in miniature, among them Edward VII, Czar Nicholas II and the Czarina of Russia, most of the original "400" of New York, prominent wealthy people of Chicago in that day, Cecil Rhodes, the Diamond King, and others.

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Portraits of these two former Terre Hauteans who were students at St. Mary's were placed in this room because of Mrs. Hulman's interest in them. The story of the rise to fame of Mrs. Coudert is of special interest to her for she has a hand-painted cup and saucer painted by the artist as a young girl, which has been handed down in her husband's family.

It is inscribed from "Amalia to Mrs. H. Hulman." Mrs. Herman Hulman was an aunt of Anton Hulman Jr., and since she was approximately the same age as the artist, it may be assumed that it was a gift to her.

The talent of Amalia, which brought her such fame, was first encouraged and fostered by Sister Maurice, art teacher at St Mary's, when the child attended school there. The vocal talent of her sister, Louise, also was enriched while at the school. Louise, too, won recognition, both for her fine voice and for war work in England during World War I.

Both women later became English subjects. Amalia married the son of a wealthy French - American family, Charles DuPont Coudert, and Louise married John Wells Cloud, an American in charge of a business abroad. Amalia died in May of 1932 in Switzerland, and Louise died several years ago at her home in Magnolia House, Sunningdale, Berks, England.